METHODIST Peace Courier

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CHRISTIAN FAITH AND OUR INTERNATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

Bishop William C. Martin, President of the National Council of Churches, in issuing a call for the Cleveland Conference on Christian Faith and International Responsibility, stated: "It is precisely in these difficult and anxious times that the churches of Christ in the United States must speak and speak clearly."

The approximately 400 representatives of member denominations of the National Council of Churches who met at Cleveland could not speak officially for the National Council nor for their own denominations. What they could do was to face the issues which had been explored by five commissions, chart out a course of proposals for the consideration of the Protestant churches in America, and draft for publication the results of the discussions, deliberations, and actions upon the issues of Christian faith and our international policies. In the consideration of these two major factors, a Conference message on Christian Faith and International Responsibility was presented and four major areas dealt with, areas which are now in the published booklet, "Christian Faith and International Responsibility." These areas are (1) the United States and the United Nations, (2) the United States and foreign economic policy, (3) the United States and the less-developed areas, and (4) the United States and collective security.

The contents of this publication, "Christian Faith and International Responsibility," which is available from the Board of World Peace at 30¢ per copy (with a study guide entitled, "We Are Responsible," also selling for 30¢), deserve careful consideration if not thorough study. No pastor nor church committee on world peace nor chairman and members of conference boards or commissions on world peace can afford not to have this volume, if for no other reason than to have at hand references on the superbly written twelve special Resolutions adopted. Most, if not all, of these will be live issues throughout 1954. The study of these materials is surely basic in the preparation of the churches for later activities in the Crusade for World Order under the leadership of the Bishops. These materials should be put into the hands of competent individuals in the local churches for reading, study, and for use in local church committees, church school classes, forums, and special study groups. Some churches may well create special discussion groups or forums for adults who do not now attend church school, providing studies for an hour over a limited number of Sundays, say four to six.

Many churches could make a special feature by way of an Institute or School of International Affairs for five or more Sunday afternoons, say from 3:00 to 4:30 or 4:30 to 5:30, etc. One afternoon might be given to each of the four areas with a closing afternoon of discussion on the twelve Conference Resolutions.

C.F.B.

COUNCIL OF BISHOPS ANNOUNCES CRUSADE FOR WORLD ORDER

In a recent release through METHODIST INFORMATION, the Bishops announced proposals for the Crusade for World Order. These plans include a three-day first-hand observation and study at the United Nations in April. Consultations and discussions no doubt will accentuate among other areas of consideration four specific objectives announced by the Council of Bishops: (1) The Meaning of Peace, (2) The United Nations, (3) Disarmament, and (4) Charter Review -- The Improvement of the U.N.

One should exercise care lest he miss the deeper meanings within these four objectives by too hasty or superficial a review of them. Taken seriously -- embodied in the life of the church -- they hold latent possibilities of far-reaching effect. As the plan of the Bishops unfolds, this should, and we believe will, stir the whole church, lifting the level of its understanding of and loyalty to the United Nations.

The Board of World Peace plans to fully

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Officers of the Board: Rev. Ralph W. Sockman, president; Rev. Edmund Heinsohn, vice-president; Rev. George W. Carter, recording sec'y; Rev. Irvin S. Motz, treasurer.

Staff: Rev. Charles F. Boss, Jr., executive sec'y; Rev. Carl D. Soule, field sec'y; Mr. Herman Will, Jr., administrative sec'y.

CRUSADE FOR WORLD ORDER—Continued

enter into the opportunity presented in the Crusade for World Order. Progressively the Board will announce a consecutive strategy in its program, in order to conserve the impetus of the Crusade.

Each issue of the METHODIST PEACE COURIER will endeavor to point up ways whereby the interest and responsibility of our churches in international affairs may be advanced.

A special message and outline of program prepared by Bishop G. Bromley Oxnam, Chairman of the Bishops' Committee on the Crusade for World Order, with other essential materials, will accompany the next issue of the COURIER.

C.F.B.

ARE YOU?

Are you sharing your COURIER with others who could be using it to good advantage? Have you sent in a bundle subscription or several single subscriptions for your local church peace committee, the teachers of your church school, the officers of your W.S.C.S., and the presidents of your local church organizations?

Grace Methodist Church in St. Louis, through its peace committee chairman, Mr. T. W. Hardy, Jr., has subscribed to fifteen copies of the COURIER for committee members and local church officials. The First Methodist Church of Evanston, Illinois, through its peace committee, has sent in a bundle order for twelve subscriptions. Rev. John Carper of North Carolina writes, "I feel that the PEACE COURIER is a definite advance for helping the local committees on peace to do a better job."

From Rev. Paul Wilkinson, Secretary of the Conference Board of World Peace, Minnesota Conference: "Enclosed is a check for $15, and a list of the members of the Minnesota Conference Board of World Peace...We do want to thank you for the COURIER. We were in agreement that it is a good job of editing and presentation. Keep it up!"

Don't delay longer. Send your remittance for a bundle or individual subscriptions now.

INVESTIGATION METHODS ATTACKED

Mr. Charles C. Parlin, New York attorney and noted Methodist layman, prepared a statement for the Committee on Maintenance of American Freedom of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA for presentation at a hearing before the House Sub-Committee on Rules in Washington, D. C., February 25, 1954.

Space permits only brief references. The COURIER will keep alert on current proposed bills related to the subject of Congressional investigations and principles and rules which protect and enhance American fair play and justice. We plan at such time as a worthy bill is presented to alert the church for action. Mr. Parlin submitted nine important statements adopted by church bodies, including that of the Methodist Council of Bishops of December 11, 1953. In a critical statement on the files, six major defects were noted:

(1) "They have contained absolute misstatements of fact." (2) "The files have stated half-truths." (3) "The file makes profuse use of quotations from the Daily Worker." (4) "The files have ignored essential dates." (5) "The files have listed derogatory materials but made not attempt to include data, easily available, which would indicate devotion to America and American institutions." (6) "The files have used material out of context and slanted it in such a way as to give a totally false impression."

Each of these headings was followed by explanatory and supporting citations. Mr. Parlin presented six major proposals for correcting the above six faults.

The document of twelve pages represents a clear and superior contribution so constructed in character as to justify the unanimous support of the churches.

DISTRICT WORKSHOPS TRAIN TEACHERS

In February the Pacific Northwest Conference Board of World Peace, cooperating with the conference Board of Evangelism, sponsored a World Order study course in each local church. The teachers of the courses were pastors in nearby Methodist Churches; the text book was Van Kirk's "Christian Concern for World Order," and the minimum number of sessions held was five. A leaflet, "World Order," described the project and the Inter-Board Council handled administrative details.

In order to train the teachers of the course and to place resource materials in their hands, a training session was held on each district. The sessions, lasting about five hours and conducted on a discussion basis, were led by Dr. Carl D. Soule of the Board of World Peace.

A CHANCE FOR NEW LIFE

"Will there be a chance for me and my ily to build a new life in America?" Today t question burns in the minds of thousands homeless people whose hope has been aroused the Refugee Relief Act signed by President enhower. Under this Act 214,000 refugees obtain non-quota visas for entry into the ited States by December 31, 1956. The Metho-st Church will try to help in bringing in 00 of these persons. Other Protestant and thodox churches have accepted quotas. Al-gether it is expected that 100,000 of these fugees will be resettled by the help of urches which cooperate in Church World Ser-ce.

While the Government has provided the le-l channel for entry into our country, it looks the voluntary agencies -- the churches -- to et the conditions by which these hopeless, suf-ring people may find refuge here. Through e Methodist Committee for Overseas Relief our urch welcomes this new venture in Christian ighborliness and calls upon its people to are the good life of this free land with ose who, in many parts of the world, now live aliens and outcasts, having nothing they can ll their own.

The first condition of entry is sponsor-ip. No refugee may come in unless he is onsored by an American citizen who will sign e assurance form, pledging for the refugee d his family a home, a job and a guarantee at he will not become a public charge. In dition to the sponsor's signature, the Metho-st Committee for Overseas Relief also signs e assurance form, thus sharing the respon-bility. During 1948-1952 Methodist people fered such sponsorship to 5,122 displaced rsons, most of whom have made the difficult justment to a new culture and are now set-ed in homes and jobs, with their children schools and their families in churches. The ad of one family wrote, "From unhappy, hope-ss, starving DPs in Germany, here we are rned again into people with rights and duties ke the others. We have a home and work and fixed salary...We have new friends...We have desire and opportunity for a new life."

To sponsor 5,000 persons, most of whom ll come in family units, MCOR estimates that tween 2,000 and 3,000 Methodist sponsors will needed. Already inquiries are being re-ived from congregations or families who, ving helped in the earlier period to bring refugees who have "made good," are now eager offer sponsorship to other families under e new Act. Also requests come from former 's who are now well-adjusted, responsible erican citizens, and who in turn wish to help hers to attain the free life they are enjoy-g in America. If a committee in every local urch will help to make known the Refugee Re-ttlement Program of MCOR, it will be easy to onsor the 5,000, and again The Methodist urch will have taken its proud part in re-settling these homeless persons who, under the Act of our Government, have the right to expect Christian aid.

If the sponsorship is for a person or family whose name and address overseas are already known, send that information together with details about the housing and job that will be available. Where the request is for an undesignated refugee, state nationality preferred, skills required, size of family that will be acceptable, et cetera. MCOR will match these requests with the applications coming from abroad, will send the sponsor the assurance forms to be signed and will cooperate with Church World Service and the World Council of Churches overseas until each case is fully processed and the refugee can come to this country.

The Methodist Committee for Overseas Relief has appointed Miss Elizabeth M. Lee as Secretary of Promotion for its Refugee Resettlement Program. All inquiries about sponsorships should be addressed to her at 150 Fifth Avenue, New York 11, New York.

M.C.O.R.

YOUTH VISIT U.N. AND WASHINGTON

During the last two weeks of February, two groups of Methodist youth and student leaders visited the United Nations and Washington, D. C. From February 14 to 19 sixty college students and adult leaders participated in the Christian Citizenship Seminar, spending three days in New York visiting the U.N. headquarters, the offices of the U.S. Mission to the U.N., and hearing outstanding leaders deal with various phases of the work and problems of the U.N. The last three days of the week were spent in Washington visiting the State Department, sessions of the House and Senate, Congressional committees, visiting the Embassy of Lebanon, and interviewing members of Congress. From February 21 to 27 fifty leaders of the National Conference of Methodist Youth participated in a similar program which included sessions with Dr. Reinhold Niebuhr, Mr. Walter Lippmann, Dr. Charles A. Malik, and Bishop G. Bromley Oxnam. Both groups of Methodist youth leaders considered ways in which they could translate their Seminar experience into the thinking and program of youth and student groups in the states from which they came.

H.W.

METHODISTS IN CONGRESS

Approximately 20% of the members of Congress are Methodists. There are 19 Methodists in the Senate and 84 Methodists in the House of Representatives. These figures are based on known Methodists. A few whose affiliations are given as Protestant might increase the figures slightly.

A.A.U.N. ADOPTS PROGRESSIVE POLICIES

In the meeting of the Board of Governors of the American Association for the United Nations in the Shoreham Hotel, Washington, D. C., on March 3, Dr. Clark M. Eichelberger referred to the National Conference of the A.A.U.N. on United States' responsibility for world leadership in 1954, just concluded, as the most outstanding of the National Conferences ever held by the A.A.U.N. Approximately 100 national organizations were represented. Religious organizations included Roman Catholic, Jewish, and Protestant representatives. The Methodist Church was represented by the Board of World Peace and the Woman's Division of Christian Service, whose representatives participated actively in the work and discussions of the Conference. The Executive Secretary of the Board of World Peace served, as he had in 1953, on the resolutions and drafting committees, and is a member of the Board of Governors. There were workshops, seminar discussions, and general presentations. Experts from the Department of State, the United Nations, the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, and many other bodies assisted in the Conference. Speakers included the Honorable Richard M. Nixon, Vice-President of the United States; Mrs. Eleanor D. Roosevelt, now President of the Board of Governors; the Honorable David Key, Assistant Secretary of State for United Nations Affairs; Mr. Paul G. Hoffman, President, Studebaker Corporation; Senator John Sparkman of Alabama; Senator Alexander Wiley of Wisconsin, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations; Dr. Frank Graham, Mediator and Negotiator in the Kashmir dispute between Pakistan and India; and others. Important resolutions were adopted. The gist of a few follow:

1. Supported President Eisenhower's proposal for peaceful use of atomic energy.

2. Urged United States "Government to persevere through the United Nations on the highest levels in the long quest for universal, enforceable disarmament under an adequate system of inspection and control." Noted relation of disarmament to settlement of political problems; urged private conversations by major powers; proposed that the United States appoint a full-time representative of highest caliber to the U.N. Disarmament Commission to give continuous leadership, and urged appointment of adequate technical personnel.

3. Opposed constitutional amendments, i.e., proposed Bricker Amendment to Constitution.

4. Urged that national security further the ends of democracy and true freedom; hence, fair and just methods of investigation.

5. Urged U.S. Government not to declare, in advance of their completion, its intention not to sign any human rights covenants.

6. Supported "a bold coordinated program of technical assistance and economic aid"; outlined reasons for urging further development of the multilateral approach; called attention to the glaring disproportion between the combined military budgets of the nations and the relatively small sums appropriated for technical assistance.

7. Emphasized the peaceful settlement of prevailing conflicts: (a) India and Pakistan. Calling attention to the importance for Asian and world security of a unified southern Asia, hence, necessity for balancing military proble against the need for furthering such unity. (b) Korea and Indo-China. Commended Governmen decision to participate in the Geneva Conferen but urged this be implemented under resolution of the Seventh United Nations General Assembly which calls for a political conference to settle the Korean questions; urged that Indo-Chin be considered in a similar light and that the offer of the Secretary-General of the United Nations for use of facilities and secretariat at Geneva be accepted. (c) Arab States and Israel. Commended Secretary-General Hammarskjold for implementing Article 12 of the Israel-Jordan truce provisions calling upon these nations to enter upon direct negotiation and for his willingness to serve as chairman, with Dr. Ralph Bunche assigned to preliminary investigations; considered that the supply of arms in this region is ill-advised, dangerous, and inimical to peaceful settlement. Recommended, however, continued economic assistance to all peoples of the area, etc.

8. Supported decision of our Government "to continue to negotiate with the Government of Communist China as a matter of realistic political necessity."

9. Stated, "We support the principle of bringing all nations into membership in the United Nations whatever the form of their governments, when they are held to have met the requirements of membership in the Charter."

Space limitation prevents further descriptions, but resolutions were adopted also on Colonialism, Trade, International Secretariat, Specialized Agencies and Programs, Bi-partisan Policy, and Representation of Communist China in the U.N.

We expect shortly to have printed copies of the full texts of these resolutions.

C.F.B.

REGISTER CHRISTIAN OPINION!

A Congressional Directory to Aid in
LEGISLATIVE ACTION IN 1954

Eighty-Third Congress January, 195

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